



DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1010

October 16, 2003

The Honorable Ike Skelton
Ranking Member, House Armed Services Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Skelton:

While engaged in the global war on terrorism the Department of Defense is committed to doing its utmost to protect our deployed forces. We need to aggressively pursue any and all new systems and technologies that will enhance security to our forces in the field.

I appreciate Congressional interest and support for enhanced force protection measures and the advice and counsel we have received from many Members on how to best meet this challenge. I particularly appreciate the recommendations that you have made based on your personal observations from your visit to Iraq. Your recognition and support of force protection and the potential for new technology infusion in this area has helped the Department address the current situation in Iraq.

I recently directed the Acting Undersecretary of Defense (AT&L) and the Director of Defense Research and Engineering to lead a Department-wide review of additional force protection measures that could assist our forces in Iraq. Based on that review, I have directed additional funding of \$335.54M to field near-term solutions focused on the following CENTCOM priorities:

- \$70M to increase production of Interceptor Body Armor (IBA);
- \$59.3M to increase production of Up-Armored HMMWVs (UAH);
- \$25M to increase production of Lightweight Counter-Mortar Radars;
- \$38.3M to increase production of AEROSTATS with Electro-optical sensors;
- \$840K for Air Scan Systems-Scan Eagle Unmanned Aerial Vehicles;
- \$31M to complete the purchase of 185 SUAV Raven Unmanned Aerial Vehicles;
- \$8.1M to complete Change Detection Devices;
- \$26.5M to increase production of 107 Warlock Orange electronic countermeasure devices;
- \$5.5M to replace 10 Channel Cottonwood electronic countermeasure devices;
- \$1.0M to test and evaluate 50 Radio Frequency Detection Devices;
- \$70M to develop and procure Rapid Reaction/New Solution technologies.



These initiatives will be funded from two sources. The Army will acquire those items that can be rapidly procured with funds in the near-term, within appropriated resources using existing reprogramming rules. The USD-Comptroller will provide FY04 Iraqi Freedom Funds to the Army for those items the Army cannot fund. AT&L/DDR&E will provide oversight of the Rapid Reaction/New Solution technology funds to ensure that our military personnel in the field have the latest in personal and equipment protection, developed and fielded in a timely manner.

Thank you in advance for your continued support of these critical requirements. Should you have any questions, Dr. Ron Sega, AT&L/DDR&E, is available to provide additional relevant information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Paul Wolfowitz". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".